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## W A R T I M E   E X T E N S I O N   W O R K

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### SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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Food production and preservation, farm labor, and Victory Gardens have main emphasis in this week's summary.

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MISSOURI  
April 15, 1944

Food production.- Slogan, "Grow More in '44" has won support of both town and country. Dealers in production materials are cooperating in educational work by distributing approved printed matter of Extension Service to customers. Gardner who purchases seeds or plants receives at same time copy of Missouri Victory Garden circular. Homemaker who buys pressure cooker, jars, tops, or tin cans is given copy of new Home Canning Guide with advice on how to use it. Dealers in fertilizers and insecticides, cooperating with college and county agents, hand out circulars on how to use these materials most effectively.

Training course was given at college for 23 newly appointed county war food assistants. These are for most part "war wives" with home-economics training, former teachers, former home demonstration agents, and former Farm Security home supervisors. Training emphasized speed, accuracy, and cleanliness in food preservation. In meal planning stress was put on adequacy of diet, palatability, and maximum use of home-produced foods in well-balanced nutrition.

Gasconade County has 211 active school-district leaders trained and ready to dispense information on gardening, insect control, canning, and storage. They are challenging neighbors to surpass record of last year, when people of that county produced, canned, and stored equivalent of 310 carloads of foods.

Operators of country stores in several Missouri counties are making their places of business rallying points for extension programs in food production. Douglas County agent and FSA supervisor held vegetable and poultry production demonstrations at all country stores in county, announcing visits well in advance and spending whole day at each place. In Barton County, all but two country storekeepers now are women, so home demonstration agent has enlisted all these women and the two men as canning aides.

Food preservation.-- Most counties in Missouri have set up preseason programs for checking and repairing pressure cookers and other food-preservation equipment. In some counties proportion of inaccurate pressure gauges has been as high as 50 percent. Many pet cocks and pressure gauges were not working properly because of corrosion or incrustation. In large number of counties these handicaps are being removed by adjusting, repairing, or replacing faulty parts.

Farm labor.-- State-wide survey of county war boards recently completed by Extension Service shows farm labor situation is even worse than year ago. Not one board reported prospect as good, 48 considered it critical, 52 termed it only fair, and 3 fair to critical. War boards in 53 counties estimated 7 percent of farms will not be operated this season because of labor shortage. Year-round labor is very short, and loss of each experienced worker cuts food production. Farmers already have indicated they can use 1,100 city youth this summer. Enrollment of city youth in training programs leading to farm work has started. Farmers who intend to hire high-school youth are to be given opportunity to receive job instructor training courses.

Food preparation.-- Food leaders in about one-fourth of counties have been trained in preparation of "meals that can wait." Such meals are those that can be prepared well ahead of time to allow homemaker to do other work around home or in fields. Widespread interest is shown among farm women, many of whom are meeting greater outdoor demands on time and strength. Economy of resources without jeopardizing family nutrition is purpose of program.

Victory Gardens.-- In Perry County -- strictly rural, with population of only 15,300--home gardens and fruit plantings last year contributed equivalent of 337 railway carloads to local food supply, approximately half of total requirements, without calling upon transportation facilities needed for war. This year, early in January, under Extension leadership, people of Perry County began campaign to make county as nearly self-sufficient as possible in all foods that can be produced locally, emphasizing milk and cheese, home-killed meats, eggs, flour and cereals, fruits and vegetables.

Ten lessons on home gardening and fruit production were prepared by county agents in Jefferson County and supplied to teachers of 7th and 8th grades in schools, to be used as the 10 lessons in agriculture required in State course of study. Effort received hearty cooperation of county superintendent of schools, city school superintendents, and teachers. Results: Children are using 1,100 copies of lesson outlines with evident interest and enjoyment. They are ordering numerous copies of college circulars on vegetables and fruit growing mentioned in lessons.

Outlook meetings.-- Faced by many hard problems this spring, Missouri farm people are finding it easier to adjust plans to changing conditions because of outlook information presented by extension workers and trained local leaders. In past year outlook information was given at 28,484 meetings with total attendance of 490,840. Some 2,500 leaders were supplied with copies of 48-page outlook manual for 1944 and receive monthly outlook folder.



Cotton production.- Missouri's latest cotton crop sold for about \$9,000,000 more than it would have brought had it been produced and marketed by methods prevailing before cotton-improvement program began. Increase is due to higher yields and longer staple from use of better seed; higher grades from better ginning; and more complete mastery of cotton classing by grower. Some 79 percent of Missouri's cotton crop had Smith-Doxey classing service.

Seed improvement.- Farmers who produce pure seed of crops and varieties approved by college of agriculture render important service in helping get larger production with available labor. Working together under college sponsorship as Missouri Seed Improvement Association, Inc., farmers in this group last year produced \$349,510 worth of certified seed -- enough to plant 284,600 acres of fall and spring crops. Adapted high-producing seed stocks multiplied through this agency included 4 varieties of hybrid seed corn, 3 of open-pollinated corn, 7 of cotton, 4 of soybeans, 1 of sorghum, 1 of oats, 5 of wheat, 3 of winter barley, and Balbo rye.

4-H Club work.- Both production and preservation of family food supplies are popular wartime projects with 4-H Club boys and girls in nearly all Missouri counties this spring. Gasconade County has 316 in vegetable growing and 161 in food preservation. Perry County has 358 members enrolled in food-production projects. These reports are typical.

Cheese-making.- Demonstrations on making of Cheddar cheese as method of carrying over seasonal milk surpluses into periods of short production were given to homemakers in five counties. Intensive phase of this work is now in its third successive year and has behind it experience of families who made and used Cheddar cheese in 1942 and 1943.

Sheep shearing.- In State-wide series of sheep-shearing schools, extension animal husbandmen are giving instruction to about four good men in each county.

VIRGINIA  
April 1, 1944

Farm labor.- New Women's Land Army supervisor for Virginia is Miss Nancy Tyree, formerly home demonstration agent in Chesterfield County. She is making contacts with women's clubs and civic organizations in various parts of State to round up women to do emergency farm work this year. She also plans to recruit young women from women's colleges -- both private and teachers'.

Publicity on farm labor situation during month was concentrated on urging farmers to calculate labor needs immediately and inform county agent what emergency labor they will need to get crops planted and harvested. Material was also sent out by press and radio explaining large crop and livestock production scheduled for 1944 despite 10-percent drop in available labor.

State Farm Labor Advisory Committee met and passed following resolutions:

1. That commanding general of Third Service Command be requested to assign maximum number of war prisoners for work in harvesting fruits, vegetables, and other essential crops in Virginia; and that requests of State farm labor office for establishment of war prison camps be given immediate favorable consideration.
2. That local school heads be thanked for cooperation in adjusting schedules to permit high school students to help with crop harvest in 1943; and that all school officials be requested to continue this valuable cooperation in 1944.
3. That commanding officers of armed forces in Virginia be thanked for helpful cooperation they gave in 1943 in permitting soldiers and sailors to help with crop harvest; that these officers be requested to continue and expand cooperation in 1944 when demands justify.
4. That State and local Selective Service boards be requested to continue close cooperation with State and county U.S.D.A. War Boards and not call for military service any farm worker devoting full time to farm work and making material contribution to food production.
5. That Congress be requested to enact legislation immediately requiring all 4-F's from 18 to 37 to do full-time work on farms and in other essential industries, or be inducted into labor battalions at Army pay.
6. That all conscientious objectors in camps in Virginia be made available for essential food-production work.

Animal husbandry.- Three hog-production schools and three livestock schools were held for discussion of adjustment in livestock numbers, best use of feed, and growing of more feed. Two area meetings of county agents were held on 4-H pig projects. Circular, Breeding Pig Project, was prepared.

Agronomy.- To learn more about fertilizer situation and agree on recommended fertilizer grades for 1944-45, agronomist attended meetings of agronomists, fertilizer manufacturers, and representatives of U.S.D.A. in Philadelphia and Raleigh. Reaching Virginia's 1944 crop goals was discussed at farmers' meetings in seven counties.

Material issued through press and radio emphasized importance of ordering fertilizer and seed early; top-dressing small grain, meadows, and pastures with quickly available nitrogen; and use of corn hybrids to increase feed production.

Poultry.- Poultry work consisted chiefly of scoring demonstration flocks, visiting other flocks, and attending meetings. Specialists visited 34 agents in 29 counties, visited 82 demonstration and 74 other flocks, and discussed some poultry subjects at 21 meetings attended by 543 people.

Vegetable gardening.- At 22 meetings for tomato growers, with total attendance of 1,018, Government program of protection to growers through certification of canners was explained in detail. Greater part of each meeting was taken up with discussion of practices necessary to increase yield per acre--such as use of suitable land, good seed and plants, plant-bed practices, early planting, fertilization and liming, shallow cultivation, pest control, and care in harvesting. Farm labor outlook was also discussed.

Total of 47 Victory Garden meetings took place, with attendance of 1,534. Emphasis was placed on importance of ordering seed, fertilizer, and insecticides early, and on planning garden.

Home demonstration clubs.- Greatest interest was shown in Henry County when club leaders gave demonstrations on production and uses of edible soybeans. Garden leaders in each club discussed varieties, planting, and cultivation, and food leaders showed how to use soybeans. Several dishes were prepared by leaders, and pronounced good by group. One home demonstration club member, who grew soys, furnished dried beans for demonstration in clubs. This member is able to furnish seed to other members, and put handful of earth in each package for inoculation.

Negro farm agent activities.- Negro agents gave much time to conducting leader-training meetings, 4-H Club meetings, and war loan drives. In Brunswick County 150 farmers attended annual farmers' institute. Theme was Meeting 1944 Production Goals. Demonstration lecture on farm gardens and talk on good and poor meals were presented. In summary of meeting, State agent pointed to importance of 1944 goals, especially in keeping down sickness due to nutritional deficiencies.

In Campbell County, members of 136 farm families attended conference held to acquaint leaders with 1944 production goals and show how they could be reached. In Nansemond County, meeting was held to give farmers information on better care and proper feeding of hogs. County agent was assisted by hog specialist and animal pathologist from V.P.I. As 4-H Club projects, two Holstein calves were placed with 4-H members in Appomattox County, and one calf was placed with family in Agee community. Sussex County Advisory Board purchased 9 purebred pigs, 1 boar, and 8 cows, which were given to 4-H Club members to be bred.

